Setting up of new universities

318 SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UGC has finalized plans for setting up of new universities in the country during 2008-09 towards achieving the target of setting up of 100 new universities during the coming few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether educational trusts or other private organizations etc. are proposed to be involved in the task; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The University Grants Commission (UGC) does not set up new universities in the country. However, during the Eleventh Plan it is proposed to set up 30 Central Universities, including 16 in the States, which do not have Central Universities and 14 World Class Univiersities. The locations of World Class Universities have not yet been finalized.

Assistance to improve infrastructure in schools

319. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is providing Rs. 4,000 crores to Andhra Pradesh for improving the infrastructure in 10,000 schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Rs. 2,000 crores would be provided this year to improve the infrastructure in 1,300 schools; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The total approved outlay for Andhra Pradesh under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the year 2007-08 is 1246.07 crore, which includes, *inter alia,* targets for construction of 173 schools, 7679 additional classrooms and appointment of 1633 teachers. Under the centrally sponsored scheme "Information and Communication Technology in schools", Rs. 37.50 crore has been released to Andhra Pradesh.

Grading of universities and colleges by NAAC

320. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 13 years after it was set up, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has been able to grade only 140 out of India's 409 universities and 3,492 out of 20,676 colleges in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that NAAC grading is optional for higher educational bodies and many colleges are not aware of NAAC and benefits of its accreditation; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to emphasize the need of NAAC accreditation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an autonomous body set up under Section 12(ccc) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, has reported that as on 4th February, 2008 it has assessed and accredited 140 universities and 3523 colleges.

(b) and (c) Presently, the process of assessment and accreditation of higher educational institutions by NAAC is voluntary. In order to create awareness amongst various stakeholders, including colleges, the NAAC has helped formation of State Level Quality Assurance Coordination Committee in 21 States and has brought out over 175 publications. It also disseminates information through its website, print and electronic media. With a view to cover a large number of institutions the NAAC has adopted a new methodology of assessment and accreditation from April, 2007.

Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education

321. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), at present, in higher education of the country;

(b) the world GER at present;

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase GER during each of the last three years and the results achieved therefrom;

(d) the reasons for very low level of GER continuing in higher education despite the above steps; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The present Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education is about 11%, as compared to world average of 23.2%.

(c) to (e) Budgetary allocation for higher education has been progressively increased during the last three years. In order to achieve the targeted GER of 15% by the end of Eleventh Plan, a substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in the Eleventh Plan for the expansion of higher education, for setting up of institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of World Class Universities, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology and Schools for Planning and Architecture. Expansion of capacity of the existing institutions, incentivising State Government for increasing State outlays on higher education, setting up of new colleges in low GER districts through partnership with State Governments are also some of proposed steps for achieving higher GER.